



Rhode Island Department of Health
Three Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908-5094

www.health.ri.gov

MINORITY HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Woodlawn CDC

9:00 – 11:00 am

May 18, 2009

Members Present: Aleatha Dickerson, Yvette Mendez, Betty Bernal, Julie Rawlings, Yvette Mendez, Debbie Correia Morales, Jennifer Chaves, Helena Friedmann, Emma Simmons, Mary Falvey

Members Excused Absent:

Members Unexcused Absent: Maria Barros, Maria Sansiveri, Vinnie Velazquez, Janet Anderson, Ammala Douangsavanh, Gloria Hincapie, Deborah Perry

HEALTH Staff Present: Carrie Bridges, Helen Drew, Rilwan Feyisitan, Ana Novais

Guests/Presenters: Mara Cerezo, Harriett LeBow (SEDC)

Call to Order

Aleatha Dickerson called the meeting to order.

Welcome from Host Agency

Mara Cerezo, Executive Director, Woodlawn CDC, welcomed the members of the MHAC and reviewed some of the numerous programs offered by the agency.

Review of Minutes

Minutes from April 27, 2009 meeting were accepted without revision.

New Business

I Federal Stimulus Update

Ana Novais, Executive Director of Health provided an overview of departmental activities and utilization of federal stimulus funding coming into the state for health related purposes. These activities and funding areas will be listed by category and have key points bulleted below

Immunizations funding is projected to be utilized in (3) areas:

- Increased support to the adult vaccination efforts
- KidsNet updates

- Vaccine monitoring

Women Infants and Children (WIC):

- Looking at the establishment of contingency funding for increased food purchase needs
- Modernize the WIC food voucher paper system to something similar to EBT debit cards. Health will conduct a 1-2 year feasibility study with current WIC vendors

Community Health Centers:

- Federal monies have been made available for increased services
- Request have been made for (4) new sites
- Several CHC will be expanding hours

Electronic Medical Records (EMR):

- EMR are part of the overall federal system

Hospital Acquired Infection Funding:

- The timing and amount of funding are unknown

Chronic Disease Funding:

- No guidance issues yet
- Expected to be non-competitive
- Previously accepted but non-funded proposals may also receive funding now

HEALTH Lab/Office of Medical Examiner:

- Applied for funding. An overview of the proposal will be provided to the committee

Mental Health Services:

- Health is connect with MHRH on any activities related to the stimulus

II MHAC Stimulus Recommendations

1. It was recommended to increase the number of current MHPC. (Ana N.) Noted there may be an opportunity to increase the funding or scope of that program with federal funding. But, she advised the group that some of the federal funds are prohibitive.
2. It was recommended that HEALTH increase general education and outreach initiatives targeting communities of color. The Stanford University train-the-trainer model and lead program was cited as a good examples
3. There was support for the idea of HEALTH considering subsidizing the required vaccination fees for entry level health care workers such as CNAs

III MHAC General Recommendations

1. MHAC members should receive a formal social marketing training
2. MHPC should be encouraged to submit stories of success or challenges

3. MHAC members were asked to provide any additional comments/recommendations about the health equity bill by the end of the week

Minority Health Advisory Committee Updates

I. OMH Update

- a. New England Regional Minority Health Committee will meet June 12th in Portland Maine. Location TBA
- b. Rilwan Feyisitan has accepted the Chief, Office of Minority Health position
- c. OMH hopes to fill to other positions in the coming weeks. (1) FTE Health RI 2020 /CLAS Coordinator. (2) Half-time Epi/Evaluator position
- d. MHAC members are asked to review the proposed FY10 Title V (Maternal & Child Health Block Grant) funding and programmatic priorities for FY10 and offered feedback. Hard copies of the survey and a web link were provided
- e. Copies of the Unnatural Cause Series are available to be loaned out for viewings and discussions

II. State Partners Updates

- No updates provided

Open Comments / Discussion

- N/A

Next Meeting

Meetings are on the 4th Monday of the month from 9:00-11:00 am. The next regularly scheduled meeting is on Monday, June 22nd from 9:00 – 11:00 am hosted by The Family Van at **134 Thurbers Ave. Suite 211** in Providence.